6. Mr. G.W. Mayer
7. Dr. C.J. Joseph
8. Bro. L.S. Dias
9. Mr. T.N. Phillips
10. Mr. R.V. Gardner
11. Mr. M.E. Mathew
12. Mr. D.A. Howard
13. Mr. D.L. Bloud
14. Ms. G.R.D'Costa-Hart
15. Dr. (Mrs.) O. Mathews
16. Mr. E.G. Myall
17. Mr. Ashok Das
18. Mr. L.W. Hartnett
19. Mr. K.K. Bhasin
20. Mr. K.S. Joseph
21. Sr. Annamma Joseph
22. Mrs. Shanti Varma
23. Mr. H.N. Kashyap
24. Mr. Xavier Pinto
25. Mr. F. Fanthome

Proposal to increase the production of maize

1904. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the production of maize;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon;

(c) whether there is a proposal to grow maize in some non-traditional States; and

(d) the details of the proposal of Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has a proposal to increase the production of maize by way of increasing productivity. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "Accelerated Maize Development Programme" under Technology Mission on Maize is being implemented on 75:25 basis (Government of India : States) with 100% central assistance to the frontline demonstrations. An amount of Rs. 7.00 crores has been sanctioned for Accelerated Maize Development Programme during the current year 1995-96. The objective of the scheme is to increase average productivity from the present 1.6 tonnes per hectare to about 3.00 tonnes per hectare and the present production of 10 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes by 2000 A.D. For this the potential maize growing States have been identified for both Kharif and Rabi seasons. Action points involving a number of components have been formulated by an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose under Technology Mission on Maize. These reports have been circulated to the concerned States Department of Agriculture and Secretaries of Agriculture for taking necessary action. For 1996-97 Annual Plan, an outlay of Rs. 19.253 crores is proposed and is under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir. We will explore possibilities of growing maize in all potential areas.

(d) As given in (b) above.

Study by small industries service institute

1905. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Central Government's Small Industries Service Institute on steel rolling industries located in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the study report;

(c) whether recommendations contained in the report have been accepted by these industries to improve

their efficiency both in terms of fuel and electricity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drop-out rate of boys and girls

1906. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the problem of drop-out boys and girls in schools at primary, middle and secondary/higher secondary levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the number of drop-out boys and girls in each category (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995;

(d) the details of the Centrally sponsored programmes and the result-oriented and time-bound achievements made (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred in the implementation of each centrally sponsored scheme (State-wise) during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) to (c) The Government have examined the problem of drop outs from time to time. The State-wise details of drop outs for classes I—V, I—VIII and I—X are published in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

(d) to (e) The details of the centrally sponsored schemes and the achievements are also available in the Annual Reports. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education launched in August this year is intended to improve attendance at the primary level. The budget outlay for 1995-96 is Rs. 611.79 crores.

Underutilization of steel market

1907. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's steel market is under utilised at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some effective measures in this context to give big push in steel sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The level of steel consumption is related to the stage of economic and industrial development of a country. India is among the countries having low per capita consumption of steel. In the year 1992, the per capita apparent consumption of crude steel in India was about 22 kg. as against the world average of 143 kg.

(c) to (e) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government has also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. These include:

(i) Removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector;

(ii) Exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing;